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AN ALL-YEAR ORGANIZATION.

During the past month the President of the Conference has had the opportunity of meeting supervisors from one side of the continent to the other, from Raleigh, North Carolina, to Los Angeles, California. He has had enthusiastic meetings with members of our organization who are interested in developing and strengthening public school music. All felt the increasing importance of our yearly gatherings and expressed their desire to help make the meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, not only the largest but the most thoughtful and most purposeful of our gatherings.

To accomplish this, efforts are being focused on (1) getting enough of the right sort of people to attend, and (2) utilizing them after they are in Grand Rapids. (1) There is going to be a large representation of our most progressive workers. Many will pay all of their own expenses, a few will be sent by their boards, and a goodly number will come on the fifty-fifty basis outlined in the leading editorial of the November Journal. It is hoped that exact figures on this question of expenses may be obtained at Grand Rapids. (2) As will be seen from the preliminary program printed in this issue, definite provision is made for round table discussions on important phases of our work. Should it appear ripe for such a procedure these round tables may develop into permanent subsections of our Conference with their own chairmen. This would permit the continuing of important committees thruout the year and the undertaking of studies, investigations, and campaigns, with yearly reports

and reviews by the members interested. Eventually funds should be provided for this work. With the instituting of our state advisory councilors, with the formation of a number of continuing round tables and with the Journal reporting these activities to a large public, our Conference would be in condition to exert a more potent influence in the development of music in our country.

FIFTY SONGS AND FIVE SPECIAL CHORUSES FOR COMMUNITY SINGING.

This is the name of our new pamphlet of songs—in the approved versions—which adults like to sing and which are suitable for children, or which children like to sing in school and which are of such lasting merit that the children may keep on singing them thru their lives. The price is ten cents; the publisher C. C. Birchard & Co., 221 Columbus Ave., Boston, Mass.; the date of publication, February 15th. We shall probably go thru the whole collection at our various “sings” in Grand Rapids.

OUR BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SCHOOL MUSIC.

Publishing the first extensive bibliography in any subject is always a rather hazardous undertaking. With no previous lists to serve as checks, omissions are sure to occur. Have you noted any in the material we have already published? If so write the editor, giving complete information. All references that deserve inclusion and that are not included, are, of course, unintentional omissions. The editor will be happy to include them in their proper section if this has not already been published or, if we have already concluded the

section or sections which should include them, in a general addenda at the conclusion of matter already prepared.

MENTION THE JOURNAL.

When you write our advertisers, which ought to be often, for they have much of interest to all of us, don't forget to mention the Journal.

"COMMERCIALIZING THE CONFERENCE"

There have been, from time to time, fears expressed that our Conference was in danger of being commercialized, that is, controlled by book publishing concerns. Our basis of membership is so broad—"any person actively interested in Public School music may become an active member of the Conference upon the payment of the prescribed dues"—that large numbers of our members from year to year are not supervisors of music in the public schools. Publishers of music and makers of instruments and appliances for use in schools are certainly "actively interested in Public School Music", and hence, according to our constitution are entitled to membership. They have become members, many of them, so many, in fact, that some of our Supervisors have feared we were being commercialized. Is there any justification for this fear?

Some one has said the cure for democracy is more democracy. Likewise we may say that if there is danger in having commercial interest at our meetings the cure is not in repressing or restraining them, not in driving them into secret or hidden places but in bringing them more into evidence, more into the open. We have heard of the influ-

ence which book companies exert in securing of positions for supervisors and of the promises regarding the use of text-books which they are said to exact as payment. We shall have in the next issue of this Journal a definite statement from the manager of one of the most powerful companies regarding this matter. Criticism has been made of the procedure which seems to have been forming at Pittsburgh and Lincoln of complimentary luncheons or dinners by the book companies; it has been stated that this is a movement which threatens the democracy and freedom of our gatherings. As soon as this matter was placed squarely before the manager of another of the large companies, a statement was made that this company would do all in its power to stem this procedure. The question of exhibits of text-books and other material at the Conference has been carefully considered by our officers and Board of Directors and it has been decided to ask all the companies to display a representative collection at Grand Rapids, and to have all the displays in one large exhibit room or in adjoining smaller rooms. The Hotel Pantlind, the official headquarters, in Grand Rapids, has accommodations for exactly such an arrangement.

Bricks cannot be made without straws. Teachers cannot do their work without material. The better work we do the greater the demand will be for material. In many ways the interests of the teacher and the publisher and manufacturer are identical. Let us emphasize these common interests. Let us work together and we shall constantly discover new points of connection.